Laden's Call for Jehad against India

827. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the declaration of Jehad or holy war against India by the Saudi terrorist Osama Bin Laden; if so, what is Government's reaction in regard thereto; and

(b) whether Government are aware that a few misguided Kashmiri youths are obtaining training in terrorism in several camps in pakistan and Afghanistan; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. The said statement was purportedly issued on behalf of Osama Bin Laden declaring Jehad against India at a time when the US counter terrorism team was visiting India (September 17, 1999) for discussing measures to counter international terrorism. However, according to a News Network International (NNI) report from Islamabad, the report about 'jehad' was, refuted by maulvi Saeed ur Rahman Haqqani, the Taliban envoy in Pakistan, stating that "Osama has neither issued any statement nor met any person since November, 1998 and the statement about Kashmir attributed to him was totally baseless."

(b) Yes, Sir. A number of misguided Kashmiri youth have been going across to Pakistan/Pak Occupied Kashmir for trainng in arms, explosive handling, sabotage & subversion. Interrogation of some of the terrorists, who returned after training and subsequently arrested while indulging in actions, have revealed that some of the youth are also being sent to training camps located on Pakistan/Afghanistan border for advance training. These training camps are located at various places in Pakistan, Pak Occupied Kashmir and Pak/Afghan border.

Government is, however, vigilant regarding any threat to national security from all possible quarters and has sensitised all concerned in this regard.